

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of stacking saw blades having protective covers comprising the steps of:

positioning a saw blade adjacent a heat shrinking material so that at least one of a periphery of said saw blade or a first side of said saw blade is in contact with said heat shrinking material;

heating said heat shrinking material so that said heat shrinking material shrinks and covers teeth on said saw blade thereby forming a protective cover; and

stacking said saw blade with said protective cover on other saw blades having protective covers with an overall thickness of each saw blade being aligned and a stack of saw blades is formed.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

preforming said heat shrinking material so that said heat shrinking material has first and second portions with said second portion extending from said first portion at an angle relative to said first portion so that said first and second portions are not co-planar prior to performing the step of positioning said saw blade; and

wherein the step of positioning said saw blade includes positioning said saw blade adjacent said preformed heat shrinking material so that at least one of said periphery of said saw blade or said first side of said saw blade is in contact with said first portion.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein:

the step of heating said heat shrinking material includes heating said preformed heat shrinking material so that said second portion folds over said first portion and covers a portion of a second side of said saw blade thereby securing said saw blade between said first and second portions of said heat shrinking material.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein:

the step of preforming said heat shrinking material includes forming said heat shrinking material so that said second portion extends from said first portion at generally a 90 degree angle and said heat shrinking material has a generally "L" shaped cross section.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of preforming said heat shrinking material includes the steps of:

placing said heat shrinking material in a mold;

pressing said heat shrinking material within said mold into a predetermined shape;

applying heat to said heat shrinking material within said mold so that said heat shrinking material shrinks within said mold and will maintain said predetermined shape when removed from said mold; and

removing said heat shrinking material from said mold.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein:

the step of preforming said heat shrinking material includes forming said first portion of said heat shrinking material into a generally ring shaped configuration having a central opening with said second portion extending from said first portion along an outer periphery of said ring shaped first portion.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the step of heating said heat shrinking material includes heating said heat shrinking material by forcing a heated fluid across said heat shrinking material.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein:  
the step of heating said heat shrinking material includes heating said heat shrinking material with radiant heat.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein:  
the step of heating said heat shrinking material includes heating said heat shrinking material with UV light.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein:  
the step of heating said heat shrinking material includes the step of passing said heat shrinking material through a heat tunnel.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein:  
the step of heating said heat shrinking material includes uniformly heating said heat shrinking material.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein said heat shrinking material is PVC.

13. A method of protecting teeth of a saw blade having opposite first and second sides, the method comprising the steps of:

positioning a saw blade adjacent a heat shrinking material so that at least one of a periphery of said saw blade or a first side of said saw blade is in contact with said heat shrinking material; and

heating said heat shrinking material so that said heat shrinking material shrinks and covers teeth of said saw blade thereby forming a protective cover.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of:

preforming said heat shrinking material so that said heat shrinking material has first and second portions with said second portion extending from said first portion at an angle relative to said first portion so that said first and second portions are not co-planar prior to performing the step of positioning said saw blade; and

wherein the step of positioning said saw blade includes positioning said saw blade adjacent said preformed heat shrinking material so that at least one of said periphery of said saw blade or said first side of said saw blade is in contact with said first portion.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein:

the step of heating said heat shrinking material includes heating said preformed heat shrinking material so that said second portion folds over said first portion covering said teeth and a portion of a second side of said saw blade thereby securing said teeth of said saw blade between said first and second portions of said heat shrinking material.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein:

the step of preforming said heat shrinking material includes forming said heat shrinking material so that said second portion extends from said first portion at generally a 90 degree angle and said heat shrinking material has a generally "L" shaped cross section.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of preforming the heat shrinking material includes the steps of:

placing said heat shrinking material in a mold;

pressing said heat shrinking material within said mold into a predetermined shape;

applying heat to said heat shrinking material within said mold so that said heat shrinking material shrinks within said mold and will maintain said predetermined shape when removed from said mold; and

removing said heat shrinking material from said mold.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein:

the step of preforming said heat shrinking material includes forming said first portion of said heat shrinking material into a generally ring shaped configuration having a central opening with said second portion extending from said first portion along an outer periphery of said ring shaped first portion.

19. The method of claim 13, wherein:

the step of heating said heat shrinking material includes heating said heat shrinking material by forcing a heated fluid across said heat shrinking material.

20. The method of claim 13, wherein:

the step of heating said heat shrinking material includes heating said heat shrinking material with radiant heat.

21. The method of claim 13, wherein:

the step of heating said heat shrinking material includes heating said heat shrinking material with UV light.

22. The method of claim 13, wherein:

the step of heating said heat shrinking material includes passing said heat shrinking material with said saw blade through a heat tunnel.

23. The method of claim 13, wherein:

the step of heating said heat shrinking material includes uniformly heating said heat shrinking material.

24. The method of claim 13, wherein said heat shrinking material is

PVC.



25. A method of packaging saw blades having protective covers comprising the steps of:

positioning a saw blade adjacent a heat shrinking material so that at least one of a periphery of said saw blade or a first side of said saw blade is in contact with said heat shrinking material;

heating said heat shrinking material so that said heat shrinking material shrinks and covers teeth on said saw blade thereby forming a protective cover; and

placing said saw blade with said protective cover in a fixed dimension box along with other saw blades having a protective cover with an overall thickness of each saw blade being aligned.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of:

preforming said heat shrinking material so that said heat shrinking material has first and second portions with said second portion extending from said first portion at an angle relative to said first portion so that said first and second portions are not co-planar prior to performing the step of positioning said saw blade; and

wherein the step of positioning said saw blade includes positioning said saw blade adjacent said preformed heat shrinking material so that at least one of said periphery of said saw blade or said first side of said saw blade is in contact with said first portion.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein:

the step of heating said heat shrinking material includes heating said preformed heat shrinking material so that said second portion folds over said first portion and covers a portion of a second side of said saw blade thereby securing said saw blade between said first and second portions of said heat shrinking material.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein:

the step of preforming said heat shrinking material includes forming said heat shrinking material so that said second portion extends from said first portion at generally a 90 degree angle and said heat shrinking material has a generally "L" shaped cross section.

29. The method of claim 26, wherein the step of preforming said heat shrinking material includes the steps of:

placing said heat shrinking material in a mold;

pressing said heat shrinking material within said mold into a predetermined shape;

applying heat to said heat shrinking material within said mold so that said heat shrinking material shrinks within said mold and will maintain said predetermined shape when removed from said mold; and

removing said heat shrinking material from said mold.

30. The method of claim 26, wherein:

the step of preforming said heat shrinking material includes forming said first portion of said heat shrinking material into a generally ring shaped configuration having a central opening with said second portion extending from said first portion along an outer periphery of said ring shaped first portion.

31. The method of claim 25, wherein:

the step of heating said heat shrinking material includes heating said heat shrinking material by forcing a heated fluid across said heat shrinking material.

32. The method of claim 25, wherein:

the step of heating said heat shrinking material includes heating said heat shrinking material with radiant heat.

33. The method of claim 25, wherein:

the step of heating said heat shrinking material includes heating said heat shrinking material with UV light.

34. The method of claim 25, wherein:

the step of heating said heat shrinking material includes the step of passing said heat shrinking material through a heat tunnel.

35. The method of claim 25, wherein:
- the step of heating said heat shrinking material includes uniformly heating said heat shrinking material.
36. The method of claim 25, wherein said heat shrinking material is PVC.

37. A method of manufacturing a saw blade having a protective cover,  
the method comprising the steps of:

performing a heat shrinking material so that said heat shrinking  
material has first and second portions with said second portion extending from  
said first portion at an angle relative to said first portion so that said first and  
second portions are not co-planar;

positioning a saw blade adjacent said preformed heat shrinking  
material so that at least one of a periphery of said saw blade or a first side of said  
saw blade is in contact with said first portion; and

heating said preformed heat shrinking material so that said  
preformed heat shrinking material shrinks and covers teeth on said saw blade  
thereby forming a protective cover.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein:

the step of heating said preformed heat shrinking material includes heating said preformed heat shrinking material so that said second portion folds over said first portion and covers a portion of a second side of said saw blade thereby securing said saw blade between said first and second portions of said heat shrinking material.

39. The method of claim 37, wherein:

the step of preforming said heat shrinking material includes forming said heat shrinking material so that said second portion extends from said first portion at generally a 90 degree angle and said heat shrinking material has a generally "L" shaped cross section.

40. The method of claim 37, wherein the step of preforming said heat shrinking material includes the steps of:

placing said heat shrinking material in a mold;

pressing said heat shrinking material within said mold into a predetermined shape;

applying heat to said heat shrinking material within said mold so that said heat shrinking material shrinks within said mold and will maintain said predetermined shape when removed from said mold; and

removing said heat shrinking material from said mold.

41. The method of claim 37, wherein:

the step of preforming said heat shrinking material includes forming said first portion of said heat shrinking material into a generally ring shaped configuration having a central opening with said second portion extending from said first portion along an outer periphery of said ring shaped first portion.

42. The method of claim 37, wherein:

the step of heating said preformed heat shrinking material includes heating said preformed heat shrinking material by forcing a heated fluid across said heat shrinking material.

43. The method of claim 37, wherein:

the step of heating said preformed heat shrinking material includes heating said preformed heat shrinking material with radiant heat.

44. The method of claim 37, wherein:

the step of heating said preformed heat shrinking material includes heating said preformed heat shrinking material with UV light.

45. The method of claim 37, wherein:

the step of heating said preformed heat shrinking material includes passing said preformed heat shrinking material through a heat tunnel.

46. The method of claim 37, wherein:
- the step of heating said preformed heat shrinking material includes uniformly heating said preformed heat shrinking material.
47. The method of claim 37, wherein said heat shrinking material is PVC.



48. A preformed protective cover for a saw blade, the cover comprising:
- a first portion having opposite inner and outer surfaces;
  - a second portion having opposite inner and outer surfaces, said second portion extending from said first portion at an angle relative to said first portion so that said first and second portions are not co-planer;
  - said first and second portions being configured and adapted to allow a saw blade to be positioned in contact with said inner surface of said first portion; and
  - said first and second portions being made from a heat shrinking material so that said second portion folds over said first portion with said inner surface of said second portion facing said inner surface of said first portion and teeth on a saw blade positioned in contact with said inner surface of said first portion can be retained between said first and second portions when heat is applied to said first and second portions.

49. The cover of claim 48, wherein:
- said first portion has a generally circular peripheral edge and said second portion extends from said first portion along said peripheral edge.

50. The cover of claim 49, wherein:
- said first portion has a central opening that is generally circular.

51. The cover of claim 50, wherein:

said first and second portions form a ring shape with an annular channel between said inner surfaces of said first and second portions that can retain a saw blade when heat is applied to said first and second portions.

52. The cover of claim 48, wherein:

said second portion extends from said first portion at generally a 90 degree angle and the cover has a generally "L" shaped cross section.

53. The cover of claim 48, wherein:

said second portion extends from said first portion at an acute angle so that said inner surface of said second portion faces said inner surface of said first portion prior to being heated.

54. The cover of claim 48, wherein:

said second portion extends from said first portion at an obtuse angle so that said inner surface of said second portion does not face said inner surface of said first portion prior to being heated.

55. The cover of claim 48, wherein:

said second portion extends from a periphery of said first portion and forms a corner at said periphery of said first portion.

56. The cover of claim 55, wherein:  
said corner is rounded.
57. The cover of claim 55, wherein:  
said corner is comprised of straight segments.
58. The cover of claim 48, wherein:  
said heat shrinking material is PVC.

59. A saw blade having a protective cover comprising:

a saw blade having opposite first and second sides, a peripheral edge and a plurality of teeth that extend along a portion of said peripheral edge; and

a cover made of a heat shrinking material that shrinks and covers said teeth on said saw blade when heat is applied to said cover, said cover having first and second portions with opposite inner and outer surfaces, said first portion of said cover being disposed against said first side of said saw blade, and said second portion being folded over said first portion with said inner surface of said second portion facing said second side of said saw blade and securing portions of said first and second sides of said saw blade and said teeth between said first and second portions.

60. The saw blade having a protective cover of claim 59, wherein:

said saw blade is generally circular; and

said first portion has a generally circular peripheral edge and said second portion extends from said first portion along said peripheral edge of said first portion.

61. The saw blade having a protective cover of claim 60, wherein:

said first portion has a central opening that is generally circular.

62. The saw blade having a protective cover of claim 61, wherein:  
said first and second portions form a ring shape with an annular channel between said inner surfaces of said first and second portions in which portions of said first and second sides and said teeth of said saw blade reside.
63. The saw blade having a protective cover of claim 59, wherein:  
said heat shrinking material is PVC.